

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9, 11-12, 14-24 are pending in the application; claims 10 and 13 are cancelled.

**Specification**

The disclosure is objected to because two sending units 7 and 39 are disclosed without receiving. The device 39 is actually a receiver, as shown in Fig. 1 and disclosed in the description of Fig. 1 under the heading "Brief Description of the Drawing". The specification has been corrected accordingly.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Shibata et al.* (US 4,897,643).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 10, 13, 17, and allowable claim 18 so that the above rejection no longer applies.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103**

Claims 2 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.* and *Desatoff* (US 5,694,115).

Claims 3-5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.* and *Hall et al.* (US 5,403,132).

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.* and *Hall* and further in view of *Gnadinger et al.* (US 6,268,796).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.*, *Hall*, *Gnadinger et al.* and further in view of *Palmer et al.* (US 5,942,977).

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.* and *Sekine et al.* (US 6,249,242).

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shibata et al.*, *Sekine et al.* and further in view of *Matsushashi et al.* (US 5,541,588).

All of the above rejections no longer apply since claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 10, 13, 17, and allowable claim 18.

**ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

Claims 18-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 10, 13, 17, and 18 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

Claim 23 has been amended by incorporating therein the features of claims 1, 10, and 13 and should thus be allowable together with its dependent claims.

**CONCLUSION**

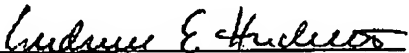
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or e-mail from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

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Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1189.

Respectfully submitted on August 7, 2003.

  
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